



MID WEST AREA
Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting
held via 'Zoom' tele-conference
on Friday 11 March 2022



Present:

*Mike Tiley	Cardiff MAC	Secretary (in the Chair)
*Alan Belcher	Swansea MFC	Area Delegate
*Jeremy Clarke		Treasurer
*Phil Charlesworth	Fins over Gwent	Education Officer
*Andy Green		Webmaster/PRO
*Keith Setchell	Swansea MFC	
*Dennis Pritchard	Amman Valley RCC	
*Martin Price	Gaer Park MFC	

*indicates a voting member.

-
1. The voting strength of the Meeting was deemed quorate in accordance with the Constitution. In the absence of the Chairman, the Secretary (Mike Tiley – Cardiff MAC) took the Chair.
 2. The documents circulated with the Agenda were received, that is: the proposed Area Constitution and the Guide to the Area Constitution as published by the BMFA, and a note of the discussion of these matter following an informal 'Zoom' meeting of members of the Area Committee held on 8 February 2022. After extensive consideration, the following actions were agreed:
 - 2.1 Regarding clause 6.3.11 of the proposed Area Constitution, it was PROPOSED by Andy Green, SECONDED by Jeremy Clarke and unanimously **RESOLVED:**
“that with reference to clause 6.3.11, the Mid West Area Committee can see no reason why a secret ballot be required for the ratification of Area Chief Examiners and that the Area Delegate should represent this view at future meetings of the Areas Council”.
 - 2.2. Regarding the proposals under which Areas would be represented in future at Meetings of the BMFA Council, the note of the informal discussion held by the Area Committee on 8 February 2022 was considered.
 It was agreed that the footnote (regarding the need for the BMFA nationally to assist the Area in engaging with Sport Wales about the impact on future approaches for funding) should be included in the summary.
 Accordingly it was PROPOSED by Dennis Pritchard, SECONDED by Phil Charlesworth and unanimously **RESOLVED:**
“that the note of the informal discussion held on 8 February be adopted as reflecting the views of the Area Committee and appended to the Minutes, and that the summary therein should be used by the Area Delegate to inform his input at future meetings of the Areas Council”.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.30pm.

BMFA MID WEST AREA
 INFORMAL ZOOM MEETING RE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BMFA ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE
 CONSENSUS OF DISCUSSION

There was general concern at the proposals intention to reduce or dilute the number and hence influence of Areas as the voice of the BMFA member at national level. There were strongly expressed views regarding retention of the current 'cross-border' structure, primarily because of concerns that Wales would be 'hived-off' and marginalised, but also because (despite the available technology) all of Wales was too big an area to cover. However, given that change in principle had already been voted on and passed, we needed to address likely outcomes.

It was noted that the proposed structure, in addition to reducing the number of voting directors (i.e. Area delegates) was intended to redraw the Areas map using English county boundaries, primarily to make it administratively more convenient to access funding from Sport England.

The similar need in Wales had been acknowledged by treating it as a separate administrative entity, intending it to seek funding from Sport Wales, but crucially, this was *within* a revised Area and Region which included English counties. This would make it difficult if not impossible for Wales to access Sport Wales funding, not least because Wales embedded in a cross-border organisational entity could not give confidence to Sport Wales administrators that funding would not bleed across to the English part of any such entity. Should the Director for any cross-border entity be elected from the English part, then that would automatically devalue their standing in any business relationship with Sport Wales. Presumably this argument would also apply for any representations made to Sport England by the 'English' part of any such entity, particularly if it had a Wales-based director...

Re the anomaly of Northern Ireland and RAFMAA having their own directors, we could not see why this should be the case:

- The RAFMAA is no bigger than a very large Club and its individual Clubs could easily be taken into the Area/Region where they are physically located.
- NI is much smaller than Wales and could easily be incorporated in the NW Area/Region, but has been granted a director, presumably for funding purposes. It also has its own recognised sporting body, the NI Association of Aeromodellers (so why in the BMFA at all?)

If the BMFA is willing to make accommodations for these relative 'minnows' then why not a similar accommodation for (trout-sized) Wales? We noted that whatever the resultant structure and number of directors, the voting power of each director would be determined by the number of clubs (members?) in their purview, so any perceived 'over-representation' conferred by a separate Wales Area would be redressed by a proportional reduction in votes.

However, in the likely event that the BMFA rejects the notion of a Wales director, then we must insist on an accommodation which enables Wales to approach Sport Wales as a discrete entity, with a titular head, in order that Sport Wales will have the necessary confidence in us. It is only with this facility that we can be ambitious for building the sport in Wales, through outreach, education and facilities.

Given the Wales-wide impact of the proposals, it was agreed that we needed to engage with north Wales clubs as much as possible to try and get a feel for their views. How – to be agreed.

There was welcome but unfortunately limited input from the 'English' side of the area. It was noted that Andy

Potts had not received any response to his approaches to several key contacts...

SUMMARY:

- BMFA nationally is looking to reorganise and reduce reduce the number of Areas.
- Primary reasons are to streamline decision making and to re-draw Areas around county boundaries to enable redefined areas to more easily access Sport England and Sport Wales funding.
- Wales would be included in a large cross-border Area (as at present) which would make it difficult for both sides in that particular Area to access funding from either national Sport body.
- Area Delegates are currently also directors, acting as the voice of Clubs and members in their Area. Reduction in numbers = reduction in voice at national (UK) level.
- There are anomalies in that Northern Ireland and the RAFMAA get their own directors, whereas Wales does not.
- Whatever the final decision, Wales needs a distinctive voice to enable authoritative representations to be made to Sport Wales.
- BMFA nationally should assist the Area in approaching Sport Wales to outline the situation and get a view from them about how they would respond to any funding requests under the proposed structure.
- Views of north Wales Clubs need to be sought.
- While this seems all 'Wales', the current proposals will also adversely impact the England part of the proposed new Area.